

Patent


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

1756
#24

In re application of:

Serial No.: 09/473,246) Group Art Unit: 1756
Applicants: Mark W. Schaefer) Examiner: Angebrannndt
Filed: December 27, 1999) Atty Dock: 012006-00254
For: Methods for Transferring)
Holographic Images Into)
Metal Surfaces)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 4, 2004.


Douglas G. Glantz Reg. No. 29,640
Date of Signature: November 3, 2004

Commissioner of Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
Sir:

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STATUS INQUIRY

Applicant requests the status of the above-identified patent application.

Claims 27 and 28 corresponded to and were subject to Count 1, the sole Count, of U.S. Patent Interference 105,176.

Claims 1-4 and 7-25 stood on their own and did not correspond to Count 1, the sole Count, of U.S. Patent Interference 105,176.

U.S. Patent Interference No. 105,176 was terminated on August 31, 2004 by judgment in respect to Claims 27 and 28.

Upon termination of the U.S. Patent Interference No. 105,176, the present Application USSN 09/473,246 should

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returned to the Examiner for further prosecution in respect to Claims 1-4 and 7-25.

In telephone Interview Summary record, Paper No. 17, mailed December 10, 2002, the Examiner recognized the declarations of Paper No. 6 filed on August 24, 2001 as sufficient to obviate the rejections of Claims 3, 5, 6, and 9-25 based on the prior art as embodiments corresponding to the provision of a coating to nickel to form a hardened surface and which embodiments are not claimed in the Mentz et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,017,657.

In an Amendment filed under Certificate of Mailing on January 6, 2003, Applicants thanked the Examiner for his thoughtful comments and assistance in the telephone interview and the indication that the declarations in Paper No. 6 obviate the rejections of Claims 3, 5, 6, and 9-25. An amended Claim 1 was presented in the Amendment filed under Certificate of Mailing on January 6, 2003 to incorporate the limitations of Claims 5 and 6 into Claim 1, as amended, and revise the numerical limitations respecting the depth of the etched pattern and the surface hardness of the die. The Amendment recited that support for the 2-3 micron depth of the etched pattern can be found on page 6, lines 26-29, of Applicants' specification, and support for the 110-125 kg/mm² surface hardness of the die (before coating thereof) is found on page 9, lines 17-20, of the specification.

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New Claims 27 and 28 were presented in the Amendment filed under Certificate of Mailing on January 6, 2003 and placed the instant Schaefer et al. application in condition for an interference to be declared with certain claims in Mentz et al. 6,017,657. Claim 27 was substantially identical to original Claim 1 as filed in the present Schaefer et al. application except for correction of a typographical error (changed "o" to "of" in line 5) and incorporation of original Claim 7 therein as suggested by Examiner Angebrannndt. Claim 28 was identical to original Claim 1 as filed except for the correction of the typographic error.

Now, upon the termination of the U.S. Patent Interference No. 105,176, the present Application USSN 09/473,246 should be returned to Examiner Angebrannndt in Art Unit 1756 for further prosecution, and Claims 1-4, as amended, and 7-25 should be the subject of a Notice of Allowability.

Applicants respectfully request the status of the instant Application USSN 09/473,246 which is believed to be returned to Examiner Angebrannndt for further prosecution and completion of the Examiner's prior determination in respect to Claims 1-4 and 7-25, which Claims are not subject to the judgment as to Count 1, the sole Count, of the terminated Interference.

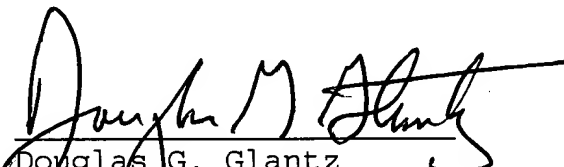
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For the foregoing reasons and now upon termination of the
Interference No. 105,176, Applicants respectfully request the
status of the instant U.S. Patent Application USSN 09/473,246
which is understood to be properly returned to Examiner
Angebranndt in Art Unit 1756 for further prosecution and comple-
tion of the Examiner's prior determination in respect to Claims
1-4, as amended, and 7-25, which Claims were not subject to the
judgment on Count 1, the sole Count, of the Interference which is
now terminated.

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

November 3, 2004
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